

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 09070 131221Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 MCT-01
DHA-05 CU-04 PRS-01 USIA-06 /047 W
-----092281 140453Z /23

R 131201Z OCT 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4997
INFO USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 9070

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: PINS IR
SUBJ: RELIGIOUS DEMONSTRATIONS IN REY

REF ISFAHAN 021 (NOTAL)

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. PRESS OCT 9 CARRIED STORIES OF DEMONSTRATIONS AT THE SHRINE OF SHAH ABDOL AZIM IN REY BY APPROXIMATELY 120 INDIVIDUALS WHO DISTRIBUTED LEAFLETS AND SHOUTED LOUDLY FOR THE RELEASE OF CONVICTED KILLER MEHDI HASHEMI AND OTHERS IMPLICATED IN KILLING OF AYATOLLAH SHAMSABADI OF ISFAHAN ABOUT A YEAR AGO (REFTEL). HASHEMI AND HIS COHORTS AS WELL AS DEMONSTRATORS ARE FOLLOWERS OF IMAM KHOMENI, NOW RESIDENT IN IRAQ, WHOSE BOOK, "THE IMMORTAL MARTYR" HAS ATTACKED IMAM HOSSEIN, THE THIRD IMAM OF THE MOSLEM SHIA SECT. GROUP CLAIMS RESPONSIBILITY FOR DEMONSTRATION LAST WEEK OUTSIDE ST. MARIE'S CHURCH NEAR PARIS, AND WAS PRESUMABLY ALSO BEHIND UNSIGNED LETTER CALLING FOR RELEASE OF HASHEMI AND OTHERS SENT TO EMBASSY AND FORWARDED TO NEA/IRN IN EARLY JUNE.

2. PRESS REPORTS DEMONSTRATORS WERE DISPERSED AFTER
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FAILING TO ENLIST SUPPORT OF PILGRIMS TO SHRINE.
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3. HIGHLY PLACED IRANIAN NATIONAL POLICE (INP) SOURCE
TOLD EMBOFF THAT DEMONSTRATIONS TOOK PLACE OCT 5, AND

THAT ABOUT 500 PEOPLE WERE INVOLVED. SOURCE CLAIMED
WHOLE AFFAIR WAS FOLLOWED BY POLICE MOBILE TEAMS AND NO
ONE WAS HELD. INP FEELS EFFORT WAS WORK OF MOSLEM
FANATICS NOT RPT NOT CONNECTED TO MUJAHIDDIN TERRORIST
GROUP. ANOTHER EMBASSY SOURCE AGREED WITH PRESS ACCOUNTS
OF 120 INVOLVED AND ALSO SAID SOME 80 HAD BEEN ARRESTED BUT
THEY MAY HAVE BEEN HELD ONLY TEMPORARILY. VARIOUS CLAIMS
HAVE BEEN ADVANCED REGARDING SOURCES OF FOREIGN SUPPORT--
SAUDI ARABIA AND IRAQ ARE COUNTRIES PRIMARILY NAMED. THOUGH
IRAQI CONNECTION THROUGH IMAM KHOMENI'S GROUP HAS BEEN NOTED
BEFORE EMBASSY FINDS POSSIBILITY OF SAUDI CONNECTION
SOMEWHAT REMOTE. IT IS CLEAR THAT ALL GOI SERVICES ARE WATCHING
STEPPED UP RELIGIOUS DISSIDENT ACTIVITY SUCH AS THIS
DEMONSTRATION AND UNIVERSITY ACTIVITY (REPORTED SEPTTEL) WITH
RENEWED VIGILANCE.
SULLIVAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Review Release Date: n/a
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